

March 15, 2012

I have volunteered for The Connecticut Hospice for a year. I went through the training program and in the beginning volunteered a few hours a week in the Branford Hospice. I provide Reiki services and diversified services for Hospice. I felt I wanted to help people in home care so I am now working with patients and their families in their homes. I am currently working with two families. I feel the service I offer them is invaluable. Both of my patients have ALS; this is a horribly overwhelming illness, for the patients and their loved ones. They need care all the time, there is no break for the caregiver. When I come in I provide Reiki services for the patient to help relieve their pain and anxiety. While I'm with the patient it gives the caregiver some time to get out, do errands, or just to relax themselves. I also provide emotional support and a lending ear to the families who need it so desperately, and Reiki treatments for any other family members who need relaxation and stress relief. My diversified duties can include a full range of things from companionship for the patient, reading, talking, just being there, to playing with the kids. Whatever seems to be needed at a particular time, I am there to help out. The families depend on us, we become close to them and they trust us to help. I feel like my presence in these homes every week is a very valuable service that these patients and their loved ones need very much. It truly helps them.

I am also a Loving Whisperer, which is a service provided by The Connecticut Hospice, where I sit with patients at the time of death and transition. When a family member can't be with them or is afraid to be alone at the time of death, a Loving Whisperer sits with the patient until they pass, offering comfort and support. The Connecticut Hospice provides very well for patients at the end of life, with total respect, anticipating their needs and their families needs, and I am very proud to be a member of this organization.

Meg Wayton